

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 00129 110645Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01
AID-05 /101 W
-----110648Z 000893 /21

R 110500Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 070
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, YE, KS
SUBJECT: ECONOMIC RESULTS OF HAMDI'S ASIAN TRAVELS

REF: (A) JIDDA 0030(NOTAL); (B) SANA 4523(1976) (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SEVERAL YARG OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THAT THE CHINESE WELCOME KIT FOR PRESIDENT HAMDI AMOUNTED TO \$US 27 MILLION. ALL OF THIS SUM IS NEW CREDIT FOR EXTENSION OR COMPLETION OF PRC PROJECTS, MOST OF WHICH LISTED REF B:
A. SANA'S A'ADA HIGHWAY AND AMRAN-HAJJA ROAD;
B. TEXTILE FACTORY IN HODEIDAH;
C. VEGETABLE OIL PLANT IN HODEIDAH;
D. MINERALS SURVEY TEAM;
E. COMPLETION OF TAIZ HOSPITAL
F. AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT WADI L'HA AND BATANA.

2. ONLY SPECIFIC PROMISES MADE BY NORTH KOREANS WERE
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PAGE 02 SANA 00129 110645Z

TO BUILD NEW SPORTS STADIUM IN SANA AND BEGIN WATER CONSERVATION/SMALL DAMS PROJECT. WHEN ASKED HOW LARGE THE STADIUM WOULD, ONE OFFICIAL SAID YEMENIS FIRST ASKED FOR 50,000-SEAT CAPACITY, BUT NOW BELIEVE SEATING WILL BE CLOSER TO 10,000. THE NORTH KOREANS AGREED TO INVESTIGATE SETTING UP A SANIATRY WARES FACTORY AND PROVIDE OTHER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

ON A REIMBURSABLE (BUT RIDICULOUSLY LOW) BASIS. EMBASSY
JIDDA MAY WISH TO PASS CONTENTS PARAS 1 AND 2 TO
SOUTH KOREANS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. ADDRESSES MAY BE INTERESTED
IN UNOFFICIAL YARG IMPRESSIONS OF PRC AND NORTH KOREA.
FOREIGN MINISTER AL-ASNAY TOLD AMBASSADOR ON JANUARY 9,
THAT NORTH KOREANS GRACELESS
AND MECHANICAL AND SAID HE
BELIEVED THEY HAD THEIR IMPULSE FOR SPORTS STAIUM GIFT
"PASSED ON TO THEM BY THE CHINESE" WHO HAD INITIALLY
RECEIVED REQUEST FROM YAR. AL-ASNAY CHARACTERIZED
THE NORTH KOREAN NEGOTIATING TECHNIQUE AS COMBINATION
OF WORST FEATURES OF JAPANESE AND RUSSIANS WITH STUBBORN,
SEEMINGLY ENDLESS HAGGLING OVER INCONSEQUENTIALL DETAILS.
FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTED KIM IL SUNG TO BE VIGOUROUS,
ROBUST, AND COMPLETELY DOMINANT OVER ALL OTHER KOREAN
INDIVIDUALS IN HIS PRESENCE AND APPARENTLY UNHAMPERED BY
THE "TENNIS-BALL SIZE " CYST ON HIS NECK. AL-ASNAY
ALSO WAS CLEARLY AND UNFAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY THE EXTENT
OF THE DEIFICATION PROCESS WHICH KIM ENJOYS. (AS A
FORMER LEFTIST LABOR LEADER IN ADEN ENAMORED OF
GAMAL ABDUL NASSER, AL-ASNAY IS A HIGHLY COMPETENT
COMMENTATOR ON THE SUBJECT OF DEIFICATION). PERHAPS
BEST CAPSULIZATION OF NORTH KOREAN VISIT MADE BY
CENTRAL PLANNING OFFICE DIRECTOR WHO SAID TRIP WAS MADE
FOR PURELY POLITICAL MOTIVES AND RESULTED IN MINOR
ECONOMIC WINDFALL.

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PAGE 03 SANA 00129 110645Z

4. FOREIGN MINISTER FOUND CHINESE TO BE "CIVILIZED"
AND GENEROUS, DESPITE PREOCCUPATION WITH THE "SABOTAGE AND
TREASON" OF THE "FOUR CONSPIRATORS." AL-ASNAY THOUGHT IT
AN INDICATION OF PRC CONFIDENVE IN ITS CONTROL OF SITUATION
THAT IT COULD ENGENDER SO MUCH PUBLIC DENUNCIATION. HE
CONCLUDED FROM CHINESE REMARKS AT FORMAL DINNER FOF
YEMENIS AND ELSEWHERE, THAT NO RECONCILIATION WITH
SOVIETS IS IN VIEW FOR SHORT OR MEDIUM TERM.
IN LATTER CONNECTION, DCM WAS TOLD SAME DAY BY RELIABLE
SOURCE WITH DIRECT ACCESS THAT HAMDI SAID THE T 1/2
HOURS OF CONVERSATION WITH HIGH RANKING PRC OFFICIALS WAS
TAKEN UP LARGELY (3 HOURS) BY ANTI-SOVIET DIATRIBES.
SCOTES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANA00129
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770009-1101
Format: TEL
From: SANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770162/aaaaccpn.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: de112fdb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 JIDDA 30, 77 SANA 4523
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3624560
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECONOMIC RESULTS OF HAMDI'S ASIAN TRAVELS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, YE, KS, (AL-HAMDI, IBRAHIM)
To: STATE JIDDA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/de112fdb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009